



2018 World Golf Championships–Mexico Championship
(The 17th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Mexico City, Mexico
Club de Golf Chapultepec

March 1 - 4, 2018

Purse: \$10,000,000
Par/Yards: 71/7,345

Second-Round Notes – Friday, March 02, 2018

Weather: Mostly sunny skies with a high of 77. Light E/NE winds at 5-10 mph.

Note: Elevation is a factor at Club de Golf Chapultepec. According to ShotLink mapping data, the lowest part of the course is 7,603 feet above sea level and the highest part of the course is 7,835 feet above sea level.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Shubhankar Sharma	65-66 – 131 (-11)
Xander Schauffele	65-68 – 133 (-9)
Rafa Cabrera Bello	66-67 – 133 (-9)
Sergio Garcia	68-65 – 133 (-9)

Shubhankar Sharma

India's Shubhankar Sharma fired an inward 31, which included three closing birdies, for a second round 5-under 66 to grab a two-shot halfway lead in his first World Golf Championships appearance at the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship on Friday.

In what is also his maiden PGA TOUR start, the 21-year-old, who is the youngest competitor in the field, began the round by making eagle on the par-4 first hole for the second successive day, this time finding the green with a 320-yard tee shot which landed about two feet of the hole which he converted. On Thursday, he chipped in from off the green for his two.

Successive bogeys on the second and third holes saw the two-time European Tour and Asian Tour winner make the turn in 35 before coming home strongly with birdies on 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18 which put him on 11-under-par 131. His longest birdie putt was from 24 feet on 12 while the other birdies were from inside of 10 feet.

Sharma hit nine of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens in regulation during his second round. He ranks first for proximity to the hole with a cumulative 28 feet and 8 inches and also strokes gained against the field.

Sharma turned professional in 2013 and played primarily on the Asian Tour. He shot a second-round 61 at the 2017 Joburg Open in December, followed by a 65, giving him a five-stroke lead through 54 holes. The final round was delayed by bad weather but Sharma finished with a 69 for a three-stroke win over Erik van Rooyen. The event was part of the Open Qualifying Series and the win earned him an entry to The Open Championship in July.

In February, Sharma fired a final-round 62 to win the 2018 Maybank Championship, an event co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the European Tour, finishing two ahead of Jorge Campillo. He came from four shots behind to win. The victory lifted him into the world top-100 for the first time. He currently sits No. 75 in the Official World Golf Ranking and leads the European Tour's Race to Dubai and Asian Tour's Habitat for Humanity Standings.

The best result by an Indian golfer in the World Golf Championships event is by Jeev Milkha Singh, who finished fourth at the 2009 WGC-Mexico Championship. Hideki Matsuyama of Japan is the only Asian golfer to win a World Golf Championships event when he triumphed at the 2016 WGC-HSBC Champions in China which he followed up with a second victory at the 2017 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.

The last player to win in his PGA TOUR debut was Jim Benepe at the 1988 BeatriceWestern Open.

Second-Round Leader Stats

Through 16 events on the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, four players have converted a 36-hole lead/co-lead into a win. Most recently, Austin Cook did so at The RSM Classic.

Since 1999, the 36-hole leader/co-leader has converted the victory at the WGC-Mexico Championship 12 times, with the most recent in 2016 (Adam Scott).

Xander Schauffele

Xander Schauffele fired a 3-under 69 and remained bogey-free after 36 holes in what is his debut at the WGC-Mexico Championship. He is the only player who has yet to drop a shot at the tournament.

Starting from the 10th tee, Schauffele made birdies on 14 and 15, converting putts from inside of six feet, to turn in 34 and briefly held the lead at 8-under. He picked up a third birdie at the first hole with a seven-foot conversion. The 24-year-old from San Diego hit 10 of 14 fairways and 11 of 18 greens in regulation and is ranked T1 for scrambling.

This is Schauffele's third start in a WGC event (T13/2017 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, T46/2018 WGC-HSBC Champions). In eight previous starts this season, Schauffele has two top-10s (T3/CIMB Classic, T9/Genesis Open) and one missed cut (Farmers Insurance Open).

Last season, Schauffele finished third in the FedExCup, helped by victories at The Greenbrier Classic and the season-finale TOUR Championship.

Sergio Garcia

Sergio Garcia carded a bogey-free 6-under 65, which included an eagle on the par-5 11th, to move into a tie for second. The Spaniard is making his second start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season after opening with a T33 finish at last week's The Honda Classic.

With 54 career World Golf Championships appearances, Garcia is in search of his first victory in the four-tournament series. Garcia's best finish came at the 2014 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, where he carded a second-round 61 en route to a runner-up result. A win in Mexico City would also be his first PGA TOUR victory since the 2017 Masters Tournament.

Garcia finished T12 in his first appearance at Club de Golf Chapultepec a year ago.

Rafa Cabrera Bello

A 4-under 67 by Rafa Cabrera Bello pushed him up to T2 position as he chases a first WGC and PGA TOUR victory.

After going bogey-free with an opening 66 on Thursday, the Spaniard dropped two shots on the eighth and 17th holes but four birdies on the front nine at the first, fourth, fifth and sixth holes, and a 27-foot eagle conversion on the par-5 15th hole kept him in contention. Cabrera Bello is ranked first in Strokes Gained Putting after 36 holes.

Cabrera Bello is making his fifth start in the WGC-Mexico Championship (T38/2017, T11/2016, T63/2013, 65th/2012). In 16 previous rounds at this event, he'd posted just two rounds in the 60s (69/R2/2017, 67/R3/2016) before 66-67 this week.

In 13 previous WGC appearances, Cabrera Bello owns two top-five results. He finished T5 at the WGC-HSBC Champions earlier this season, however, his best result was third at the 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play when he defeated Rory McIlroy 3 and 2 in the Consolation Match at Austin CC.

In six PGA TOUR starts this season, Cabrera Bello has finished inside the top-30 in each start.

Cabrera Bello holds three European Tour titles, his most recent at the 2017 Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open. He seeks his first PGA TOUR win in his 57th career start.

Miscellaneous Notes

Defending champion and world No. 1 Dustin Johnson shot 5-under 66 to move into T5 on 7-under, four shots behind leader Shubhankar Sharma. The American made an eagle on No. 9 when he holed out from 112 yards, while his four birdies came on the first, sixth, 15th and 17th holes. He is a five-time World Golf Championships winner with victories at the WGC-HSBC Champions (2013), WGC-Mexico Championship (2015, 2017), WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play (2017) and the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (2016). When he defeated Jon Rahm in the Match Play final at Austin CC, Johnson became the first player to win all four different WGC events. Johnson has four top-10 finishes in WGC-Mexico Championship tournament history – 2nd/2011, T4/2014, 1st/2015, 1st/2017. He leads the PGA TOUR Scoring Average this season with 68.891, ahead of Alex Noren (69.058).

Brendan Steele carded a bogey-free 5-under 66 and sits T5. He birdied three of the four par-5 holes on six, 11 and 15, and picked up more gains on the second and 14th holes. He is making his fifth WGC appearance and second WGC-Mexico Championship start where he finished T48 in 2017. He is a three-time winner on the PGA TOUR and won the 2017-18 season-opening event, the Safeway Open, by retaining his title. For the second day in a row Steele hit the longest tee shot of the round – a 416-yard drive at No. 4. Thursday's longest from Steele was a 401-yard shot at the 10th hole. He also hit the most greens, 16, in round two, tied with Brian Harman.

After opening with a 7-under 64, overnight leader Louis Oosthuizen settled for an even par 71 which included two birdies on two and 15 against dropped shots on six and 13. He found only half the fairways and missed six greens in regulation and needed 31 putts during his round to slip four shots back in T5.

Bubba Watson, who won the Genesis Open two weeks ago for his 10th PGA TOUR victory, fought his way back into contention with a flawless 66, highlighted by five birdies. In the first round, Watson led on 7-under through 11 holes before coming back to the field. He is making his 280th career start on the PGA TOUR and is chasing a second WGC title following his triumph at the 2014 WGC-HSBC Champions in China. Watson, runner-up at this event in 2016, owns three second-place finishes in the last six years at the Mexico Championship (2/2016, T2/2014, 2/2012).

Kiradech Aphibarnrat sits T5 after a second-round 69. Starting on the 10th hole, he made birdies on 13 and 18 and eagled the par-5 15th hole after holing a 44-foot putt from the fringe. A five-foot birdie putt on the first hole pushed the Thai into the lead briefly on 10-under before he dropped shots on the second, fourth and eighth holes. He owns four wins on the European Tour, his most recent at the 2018 ISPS HANDA World Super 6 in Perth, Australia. The WGC-Mexico Championship marks his 30th PGA TOUR start where his best showing is T3 at the 2013 CIMB Classic in Malaysia.

Jordan Spieth shot a bogey-free 4-under 67 to sit T14. Starting on the 10th tee, he made birdies on 11, 15, 18 and 1 and trails halfway leader Shubhankar Sharma by seven shots. At the WGC-Mexico

Championship last year, he shot rounds of 71 and 72 on the first two days before finishing T12 with further rounds of 63 and 71.

Mexico's Abraham Ancer shot a 76 in the second round to sit T56. Ancer secured his exemption into the Mexico Championship by finishing as the top-ranked Mexican player in the world (No. 255) as of February 19, 2018.

Justin Thomas, the reigning FedExCup champion, carded a 70 for T38 position after two rounds. He won The Honda Classic in a playoff last week.

Phil Mickelson, at 47, the oldest player in the field this week, followed up 69 with a 68 for T14 position. Ernie Els, aged 40 years, 4 months, 25 days in 2010, is the oldest winner of the Mexico Championship. This is Phil Mickelson's 16th start in the Mexico Championship, where he owns two other top-five finishes to go along with his victory in 2009.

There are four past champions of the WGC-Mexico Championship in the field this week:

Player (year won)	R2 Standing
Dustin Johnson (2017, 2015)	T5
Phil Mickelson (2009)	T14
Justin Rose (2012)	T40
Patrick Reed (2014)	T53

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Louis Oosthuizen (64), Xander Schauffele (65), Shubhankar Sharma (65), Rafa Cabrera Bello (66).

R2: Xander Schauffele (68), Sergio Garcia (65), Brendan Steele (66), Bubba Watson (66), Kyle Stanley (65), Charley Hoffman (66), Jordan Spieth (67), Tyrell Hatton (68), Marc Leishman (68).

Scoring Average

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.203	35.547	70.750	-
R2	34.938	35.172	70.109	70.430

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